

SWIMMING POOL REQUIREMENTS



Requirements for swimming pools are outlined in Appendix G of the 2009 Michigan Residential Code. The following is a short list of requirements most residential pools will need to satisfy before the pool may be put into use. These requirements apply to both above-ground and in-ground pools, unless specifically noted. This list is meant to be a helpful guide to assist you in the basics of erecting a safe and secure pool, but is not meant to be an exhaustive list.

Building permits are required for any pool with a water depth of 24" or more. Permit fees are as follows:

Above-ground pools: \$20.00

In-ground pools: *Project valuation. Refer to the City of Midland Building Permit Fee Schedule for cost.*

BARRIER/FENCE REQUIREMENTS

- All in-ground pools require a fence/barrier
- All above-ground pools with sides less than 48" high require a fence/barrier. Above-ground pools with sides 48" or taller do not require a fence/barrier, but must fulfill gate requirements as outlined below.
- Barriers/fences shall be placed to prevent climbing of permanent structures and equipment.
- All horizontal rails shall be placed on pool side. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence.
- Barriers with horizontal and vertical members shall be spaced a maximum of 4" for vertical members and 1 3/4" for horizontal members.
- Chain link mesh fencing shall have a 2.25" maximum opening.
- Lattice fencing shall have a 1.75" maximum opening.
- The top of the barrier shall be 48" above grade measured on the side that faces away from the pool, with a maximum of 2" between grade and the barrier.
- If a dwelling is part of the barrier, all doors leading into pool area shall be equipped with an alarm.

ACCESS GATE REQUIREMENTS

- Must meet the same height and opening requirements as a fence or barrier.
- Access gates shall open outward from the pool and be self-latching and self-closing.
- The latching device must be on the pool side and at least 3" below the top of the gate.
- When using a perimeter fence as a barrier, any gate that is not a pedestrian gate must be self-latching.
- For above-ground pools with sides that are 48" or taller and accessed by a ladder/steps that are removable, no fence or barrier is necessary. If they are not removable, they must be surrounded by a barrier or fence.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS

- Swimming pools can only be located in side or rear yards.
- Swimming pools located in rear yards are required to be placed at a minimum of 3 feet from property lines, and a minimum of 6 feet from other structures.
- Swimming pools located in side yards are required to be placed at a minimum of 6 feet from other structures, and must meet side yard setback requirements as per Section 26.2 of the City of Midland Zoning Ordinance.
- Swimming pools cannot be located in easements.
- Overhead wiring must be at least 22.5 feet above pool water, measured in any direction.
- In addition to a building permit, electrical and mechanical permits may be required for installation.
- For pool decking requirements, please refer to the City of Midland Decks Handout

If you have any questions regarding the installation of swimming pools please contact the City of Midland Building Department.

City of Midland Building Department– 333 West Ellsworth Street – Midland MI 48640

Phone 989-837-3383

www.midland-mi.org/building

Fax 989-835-2378

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